

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, an Abstract of Disclosure has been added as the last page of the application (page no. 18). The separate page for the Abstract of the Disclosure is attached.

An amendment to the specification is made also to identify the PCT International Application and under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) to identify the foreign priority document benefits of the application.

Claims 1-34 are currently pending. Claims 2-10, and 12-28 have been amended in order to conform them to the U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.


The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 28, 2004

By:   
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

-18-

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical fibre unit having a sheath and a plurality of optical fibre elements loosely housed in the sheath. The sheath is coated with particles of an adherence reducing substance and has a radial thickness that is not substantially greater than 0.3 mm. The coating of adherence reducing particles is applied as a liquid coating. The liquid coating is a dispersion of the particles and heat is applied to evaporate the liquid content of the liquid coating to produce a dry coating of particles on the sheath.